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DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES REMINDS MOTORISTS OF ELECTRONIC TITLES

~ Department advises change in mailing notification letters ~

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is implementing a measure to increase consumer protection, reduce mail to customers and make the most efficient use of state resources.

Electronic titles or "e-titles" are the motor vehicle, mobile home or vessel titles held in an electronic form by the Department. Currently, when a customer satisfies a lien that has an e-title, both the lien holder and the Department send a letter to notify the vehicle owner that the lien has been satisfied. The Department also instructs the owner on how to obtain the title. In an effort to reduce redundancy and to ensure the effective use of taxpayer resources, the Department will no longer mail the letters, effective Jan. 15, 2009. Instead, the Department is partnering with financial institutions to increase public awareness to educate customers of the benefits of an e-title.

The Department encourages owners to maintain their titles electronically to eliminate the risk of losing the title and to protect it from theft.

Vehicle owners will continue to have the ability to obtain a paper title by visiting or contacting their local tax collector's office or via the Department's Web site at <http://www.flhsmv.gov/html/emt.htm>.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles would like to encourage customers to skip the trip and use our many online services at www.flhsmv.gov. Here, customers can renew their driver licenses, identifications cards, vehicle tags and change their addresses, in the convenience of their home or office. Customers who need to visit an office may schedule an appointment, which can be made online, using our Online Appointment Service and Information System, <http://oasis.hsmv.state.fl.us/>.

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